Reduction in Duty on Processed Food

4635. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that duty on processed food has recently been reduced from 150% to 38%;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any assessment has been made about the impact of this reduction on the farmers community and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. Import duty i.e. basic duty and surcharge on most processed foods was 40% prior to the Budget 2000-2001. With a reduction in the general peak rate of basic duty from 40% to 35% in the budget, the import duty on these goods has come down to 38.5% (inclusive of surcharge).

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Brave Talks on Downsizing Government Machinery

4636. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's brave talk on downsizing its machinery has not been translated into action and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have appointed more than one lakh persons during the last financial year and if so, the details thereof stating the details of the sector where such appointments were made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The exercise to reduce posts by 10% underway since 1992 has resulted in abolition of 1.60 lakh posts under various Ministry/Department.

(b) No centralised data is available on number of appointments made under Central Government during the last financial year (1999-